

## You're a Good Man Charlie Brown Show Feedback

**14 responses:** 9 audience/4 prod team/1 cast

### Direction

Much praise was given for the distinct characterisation with two responses practically paraphrasing each other on this point and the cast consistently being referred to as the 'characters'. One response said, 'I believed they were kids' and 'each individual was so unique but so accurately their character from the comics.' The comedy of the show was highlighted in multiple results as 'the comedy of this show was brought to life thanks to direction- YAY ROB'. The blocking was described as 'dynamic', 'creative' and 'fab' and the scenes were said to 'fit together very well'.

The director worked with limits 'rather than against them' such as avoiding blackouts, working on 'quality not quantity' in doing a small show with minimal characters, setting changes and simple narratives. The small cast size also created strong unity and easy co-ordination between production team members. The downside to the small cast was 'that a single absence had a big impact on what we could do in rehearsal.' The solution being to 'press ahead with those rehearsals anyway and just blocked them in later.' It was acknowledged the director 'could have made more of [...] rehearsal time' aiming to do a 'run before Christmas'. They went on to comment they had 'never been so at ease during an intensive week before', wishing they had 'paid more attention to the interstitial music in when blocking'. They wished 'to mention for future directors that encompasses both process and product is to make sure to personally keep in touch with your technical directors', the director having missed all meetings. The result being the dog house being too tall for the actors, the piano scene on the floor being hard to see, lighting not being discussed before it was rigged. During the rehearsal process the director could have 'done more 'character work'- or simply the job of the director beyond utilitarian stand-here-move-there blocking', perhaps 'discuss character properly with each actor individually in the rehearsal room rather than trying to foster group discussion'. The director could have 'been more present at singing rehearsals, if only to be present in the room but also to have an input in 'motivating' lyrics as they were taught.'

In the improvements section two responses suggested for direction 'the voices were a little too consistently brash and shrill' and there was 'more room for more intricate blocking things'. The former response went on to say 'Not a huge problem since it was very much in character for everyone but at times was a little much' and the latter to say 'I don't know if the simplicity was part of the charm and intentional'.

Outside of the show a response raised the issue of 'Rob being uncontactable at some points during the [rehearsal] process but this was worked out and wasn't disastrous.' Another response said 'Rob wasn't particularly assertive, left us to make a lot of things up ourselves with blocking things. He needed to have more of a plan before rehearsals and then make sure it was executed'.

A good summary quote: 'Absolutely brilliant, felt so good, no mistakes and I loved it so much.'

### Production

The whole show was described as 'colourful' in many responses with one person appreciating it 'looked like a lot of hard work was put in'. The set 'looked fantastic' and was described as 'beaut, proper looked like the cartoons'. Other elements commended with superlatives were the promo

materiel, the poster, the costumes, the props, the shoes', 'hair bows', 'the kite flying and Schroeder's piano'.

The words 'exceptional', 'amazing', 'Gaby- what a babe!', 'brilliant', 'fantastic' were all used to praise Abbey and Gabby. They were described as 'working really well as a team' with 'everything they did they did it all promptly!'. Georgia also received a shout out for her 'really wonderful trailers'

For improvement one response mentioned 'using a paint rather than a marker pen to tailor the costumes would have looked slightly crisper' continuing with 'but this is honestly not an important point'. Another small point was 'programs and flyers were not the highest image quality, they were a tad on the pixelated side.' One response said it 'Would have been nice if they actually got schools or scout groups to come' as they 'didn't really feel like they really chased that up much.' This was mirrored in another response saying 'we could have got more bums on seats'. The response suggested more posters on billboards around the uni, summarising the current forms of promotion reach the same people. 'A physical presence around uni a fair while in advance reaches \*so\* many people, especially those who have absolutely no idea we exist, and seems to me to be easily the best return on time and energy.' The same response said this wasn't specific to the show and suggested in future to 'flyer the interchange more- lots of people about who aren't quick witted enough to avoid you and being able to literally point to the Annex'. A larger general point raised by an audience member was the need for 'more set design', saying '(I don't want to change anything but if I have to pick something!)'.

A good summary quote: 'The producers should be incredible proud of the look of the show [...] the set and props were all part of what made this show so perfect.'

### **Musical Direction**

All responses to musical direction were unanimously positive: 'Joe is an angel sent from the heavens'. The singing was 'was perf', 'really good', 'a joy to hear, and when all sang together it was superb'. Songs highlighted were 'the book report', 'Beethoven day' and 'Bella's sections in Red Baron were awesome'. One response read 'I thought the quality of singing was overall really good. Could tell the singers were singing properly and had been taught well.'

The band was noticed as being 'particularly good', with comments saying, 'band sounded sweeeeeeeet', 'Band were on point', 'well played', 'The band was fantastic and deservedly got a rapturous applause after the show.'

The only improvement mentioned was perhaps 'to use more cartoon-y sound effects' with the suggestion retracted: 'but that might have been overkill.'

A good summary quote: 'Joe Barr's done it again - everyone knew their shit, and songs melded in so well to one another it was truly a joy to hear every song'.

### **Choreography**

The choreography was described as 'simple and effective', 'blurring the lines between childish movements and stylish jazz dance.' This sentiment was reiterated again with the choreo 'really capturing the childishness whilst still being interesting and challenging' and another person commenting on it being 'challenging but also fun and achievable for the cast'. Two responses

described Charlotte as 'fab', another noting the use of the 'Annex's limited space', and one person saying, 'I liked how some bits had all the characters doing a different dance move at the same time.'

A specific highlight of the show for one person was 'Bella and Samena in the butterflies section'.

Improvements mentioned were, 'perhaps more use of space' and during rehearsals to block 'the scenes around dances on the same day.' The second point however, 'didn't have an impact on the end product, but would have made things a little easier when [...] piecing the whole thing together.'

A good summary quote: 'It was really well executed and fitted the tone really well, making the show delightful to watch.'

## **Tech**

Tech was 'perfect' and 'awesome', one response noting 'the set [...] really was a joy to behold when you walked into the annex.' The lighting was raised and praised by multiple responses appreciating 'Nice use of lights and colours', 'the pink lighting for Bella', how it 'progressed through the show' and how it 'really tied in with the show giving it a wonderfully warm feeling!' Sound was praised as was stagesoc in general who 'were open and helpful to suggestions and were happy to do and make complicated things for us which was great!'

The kite was highlighted by three responses saying 'loved the kite', 'the kite scene was really cool' and 'Always gotta love a kite flying about'.

Improvements included 'More on time with members e.g. cues', and disappointment 'that all the set wasn't finished before tech run, especially when they had a whole week of empty Annex.'

A good summary quote: 'Tech was perfect, couldn't have asked for a better set of tech and a better bunch of people'

## **Final Comments**

A short selection of quotes that summarise the positive responses:

'Well done to everyone involved, you should be very proud :)'

'A fantastic show that really did reach excellence in every department, in every way.'

'I think this might be the best Showstoppers show I've seen, congratulations on a fantastic run.'